

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO USDA/FAS WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 6158

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1603

SUBJ: ANGLO IRISH "BEEF WAR"

REF: TOFAS 113

FROM AG ATTACHE FOR LIVESTOCK DIV.

TOFAS 117

1. IRISH AGMIN CLINTON HAD 2 HOUR MEETING WITH UK AGMIN PEART IN ROME NOV. 6, WHERE BOTH ATTENDING W.F. C. CLINTON EXPRESSED SERIOUS CONCERN AT UK FARMERS' BLOCKADE OF IRISH CATTLE AND BEEF. HE POINTED OUT THAT ACTION WAS UNWARRANTED, AS CATTLE EXPORTS CURRENTLY WELL BELOW NUMBERS AGREED UNDER ANGLO IRISH FREE TRADE AREA AGREEMENT, AND THAT MUCH OF BEEF WAS INTERVENTION OWNED AND DESTINED FOR UK AND EC COLD STORES.

2. CLINTON SAID IRELAND IN NO WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR UK CATTLE SITUATION AND BLAMED EXCESSIVE IMPORTS FROM THIRD COUNTRIES. HE URGED UK TO IMPLEMENT EC INTERVENTION BUYING. WHILE HE SAID TRADE WAR WAS LAST THING HE WANTED HE COULDN'T GUARANTEE PATIENCE OF IRISH FARMERS.

3. CLINTON REPORTED THAT PEART APPARENTLY SYMPATHETIC, STRESSING HE WAS TOTALLY AGAINST BLOCKADE AND HAD NO INTENTION OF INCREASING

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DOMICILARY PERIOD FOR IRISH CATTLE BEFORE SLAUGHTER IN UK. HE

SAID PEART HAD CERTAIN MEASURES IN MIND AND DISCUSSIONS WOULD CONTINUE IN LONDON NEXT WEEK.

4. DESPITE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND STRIKING OF ATTITUDES HERE AND IN UK, EFFECT OF WELSH BLOCKADE ON IRISH CATTLE TRADE SO FAR VIRTUALLY NIL. MARKEY PRICES ACTUALLY RISING AND IRISH LIVESTOCK AND MEAT BOARD SPOKESMAN SAID MOST CATTLE AND BEEF STILL GETTING TO UK WITHOUT MUCH PROBLEM. MUCH IRISH BEEF EXPORTED TO CONTINENT TRAVELS VIA UK, WHICH MAY CONFUSE WELSH FARMERS. MARKETS HERE REPORT UK DEMAND FOR IRISH FEEDERS REMAINS STRONG AND T IS APPARENT THAT WHILE SOME UK FARMERS OBJECT TO IRISH CATTLE IMPORTS, MANY STILL WANT TO BUY THEM.

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